

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 10 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 4th March 1876.

WE take the following from an editorial in the *Sádháraní*, of the 20th February, headed "Loyalty":—Of late a suspicion seems to have arisen in the minds of the English that the Hindus are wanting in loyalty, and that they have ceased, as formerly, to regard the British Government with respect. If the English had at all examined how far this suspicion had any basis in truth, we should have had nothing now to say; for suspicions naturally spring up in the human mind; but the causes should be closely examined as soon as felt, and entertained or dismissed according to the result of this examination. The misfortunes we suffer under the British administration are in a large measure owing to this suspicion which exists in the minds of the rulers regarding our loyalty.

SADHARANI,
February 20th, 1876.

We have taken up the subject with a view to remove, if possible, any doubts respecting our loyalty from the minds of the English. We shall endeavour to show that the loyalty of the Hindus remains as unshaken as ever, but that with a change of times, it has only slightly changed in its mode of development. It is indeed true that no Hindu would now exclaim, as formerly, "the Lord of Delhi, the Lord of the World," and that a faith in the right divine of kings has disappeared in most, if not all, places of India. Still, we can never bring ourselves to admit that there is no loyalty in this country. Loyalty properly consists in respectfulness of behaviour and subjection to any whom we believe to be superior to us in intelligence. A certain amount of ignorance is, as it were, always implied in the mere fact of subjection. But as this ignorance is gradually removed, the feeling of devotion, too, likewise undergoes modification. We have now, for more than a century, subsisted on the scanty pittance allowed us by the British, have formed acquaintance with, and have closely examined, their characters, and as a consequence of this our loyalty has suffered a change. One peculiar characteristic of this feeling is that it cares but little about the object in reference to which it may be exercised. At times it has treated with equal respect a tyrant, the extreme oppressor of his subjects, and a quiet, benevolent sovereign. The Hindus remain as loyal to the British to-day as they were towards the Mahomedans under their rule. But the difference in this respect during the two periods has been this, that whereas under the Moslem rule the Hindus were wholly devoid of ambition, now under the British administration they have begun to realize an ardent desire to be raised in the scale of society. And hence it is that our loyalty does not appear so striking to the eyes of our rulers as may be desired. The English education and the blessings of English rule have now taught us to

discuss political questions ; and if in the course of the discussions, we sometimes endeavour to point out anything wrong in the administration, ought our rulers to be severe on us ? We have never been disloyal, nor have we ever waged war with any of our sovereigns. A rigorous administration is not suited to our society ; we want peace and peaceful rulers.

SUHRID,
February 22nd, 1876.

2. Adverting to the retirement of Lord Northbrook from the Viceregal office, the *Suhrid*, of the 22nd February, makes the following remarks :—The Viceroy has now almost become a nominal ruler, for his power has diminished, and the Viceregal office is, as it were, a mere machine in the hands of the Secretary of State. Its dignity has declined, and it is for this reason that there is so much unwillingness manifested by men of great abilities to accept the office. Lord Northbrook, indeed, possessed very high abilities ; but he, too, has been obliged to retire before his time, owing to the frequent interference of the Secretary of State in his administrative measures. A reference to this subject leads to the idea that the Viceregal office is not a necessary one. Since India is actually ruled by the Secretary of State from England, why keep up this unnecessary and highly paid office ? The people of India are, as was lately seen on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit, so famous for their loyalty that there should be no fear of any danger to the British Government from them ; while the provincial Governors may be justly thought to be able to deal with all matters of offence and defence.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 23rd, 1876.

3. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 23rd February, thus writes on the predominant influence of the Indian Civil Service on the Government :—Neither the Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor-General, the Secretary of State, nor even Parliament itself, has been able duly to understand the influence exerted on the administration by this body. And it was because Lord Canning did not understand this during the earlier period of his rule that the Sepoy Revolt broke out ; but that it was so easily put down was due to the fact that he latterly came to see it. It was, however, in Lord Lawrence's time that the full force of this civilian influence was felt. He himself was a member of the service, and as such, to protect its interests and enhance its dignity became an object of great importance to him when he was promoted to the Viceroyalty. Lord Mayo, on the other hand, did not understand it, and hence it was that in his endeavours to destroy what he believed to be the Wahabee conspiracy, he actually created it. What had been previously a dream, the ravings of a maniac, and as indefinite as the shifting apparition of darkness, became, through Lord Mayo's oppressions, a definite and tangible reality, and the exile of Amir Khan revived the almost destroyed activity of the Mahomedans. The evil counsels of the Strachey brothers, and the financial speculations of Sir Richard Temple, disturbed the whole of India, and the people became too uneasy and dissatisfied to suppress their feelings. From that time many have turned their attention to politics. In the Baroda affair, Lord Northbrook overcame for a time this civilian influence, but at last yielded to it, lost his popularity in connection with the recent affair at Hyderābād, and failed in securing the sympathy of the people during the profound agitation consequent on the passing of the Tariff Act. The civilian influence pervades the whole of India. On whatever department one casts his eyes, this is perceived. From the District Magistrate to the Member of the Council of the Secretary of State, all officials form part of the Civil Service. They govern India in the Queen's name, and ignoring all liberal policy are engaged in promulgating narrow views and sentiments in India. Concealing the noble mission of

England to this country, they afflict the hearts of the people by making in their behaviour an invidious distinction between the conquerors and the conquered; and, harassing the country by their misconduct, have produced a seething mass of heartburning, discontent, and uneasiness. In fact, the members of the Civil Service as a body are our rulers. They wield the sceptre and sit on the throne. In our dull eyes, the Magistrate, surrounded by his followers praying for his favor, and the Lieutenant-Governor, with all his pompous and showy body-guard, are the same. Both have one object in view—the glorification of the Civil Service. Strike at the interests of the service, and forthwith all these will be on fire. India is, as it were, their play-ground, and they have a natural right to the enjoyment of its revenue. The natives of India are the instruments of their wills. It is not, however, our intention to consider at present whether they have benefited or injured us. We shall content ourselves with merely saying that the civilians are a hindrance to our advancement. A batch of new civilians, all raw and inexperienced men, are sent to India every year and appointed to all important offices. The interests of the Civil Service are antagonistic to ours, and they will continue to be so until the doors of the service are opened without restriction to the natives. In conclusion, the great power possessed by the service is strikingly seen in connection with the proceedings of the Calcutta Municipality, in which the Lieutenant-Governor is persistently supporting the Chairman of the corporation, a civilian, in spite of the strong opposition of the public.

4. The same paper, in a lengthy editorial headed the “British Government and ourselves,” observes that the sage prediction of John Stuart Mill, who in the transfer of India from the possession of the East India Company to the Crown foresaw the evil consequences that would thus accrue to the former country, has now come to be fulfilled. The Queen herself but very rarely thinks of India, and the Secretary of State is but nominally responsible for its good administration. India has no one to advocate her interests in Parliament, while the British have ever overlooked them to further their own. It is therefore highly necessary, now that the relations between England and India are becoming closer than ever, that the latter should be allowed the privilege of sending a fixed number of natives to England to represent her there in the British Parliament; or even if this be considered too much, power should be given to the natives to nominate some from among the British members of Parliament as her representatives.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 23rd, 1876.

5. Adverting to the importance of obtaining correct statistics for all purposes of good government, and the attention that is being devoted to the subject by the present administration, as seen from the regular publication of the *Statistical Reporter*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 24th February, urges on Government the necessity of exercising due caution in compiling the statistics; for, as is well known, district and sub-divisional officers are often required to supply information on important economic and other matters on a short notice, and as a consequence, are obliged to depend on the police. This undue haste gives rise to extremely inaccurate and misleading results. It is indeed difficult to obtain, in this country, any correct information relating to its agriculture or other matters affecting the interests of the people, for the conditions are not at all favorable for the purpose. From a suspicion of the motives of Government, there is always an extreme reluctance manifested by the people to supply correct information, and consequently the system adopted by Government in drawing up its statistical returns must be liable to errors and inaccuracies. What evils have not

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
February 24th, 1876.

resulted from the inaccurate census compiled by Mr. Beverly? It is said that in his haste and anxiety to go on leave, he pressed the clerks to do a certain number of names daily. The clerks took the hint and acted accordingly. Important administrative measures have been however adopted, and conclusions arrived at in accordance with the results disclosed by the census. It is to be hoped such undue haste will be avoided in the compilation of the *Statistical Reporter*.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 25th, 1876.

6. The *Education Gazette*, of the 25th February, thus remarks on the amended Calcutta Municipal Bill. The Bill, as amended and altered by the Select Committee, is now better than before. Several objectionable sections have disappeared, and many passages of intricate construction have been simplified. But even this has not been enough. The Bill is still under debate in the Council. Though the principle remains the same, still the different parts have been considerably improved; and it is hoped that the remaining defects will be gradually removed. Being, as it is, the germ of something which will prove exceedingly beneficial, it certainly should not be altogether rejected.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

7. In reviewing the Resolution of Government on the last report of the Medical Department, the same paper makes the following observations:— For want of proper exertions, a sufficient number of hospitals have not been established. The practice of Hindu medicine is by degrees passing away; and if the allopathic system does not take its place, a considerable amount of evil will accrue to the country. Allopathic practitioners have indeed commenced business in different places, but their number is not adequate to the requirements of the people, while the poor can hardly avail themselves of their treatment. In this country, more especially in the mofussil, the majority of the people are such as cannot afford to be treated except in charitable dispensaries.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
February 26th, 1876.

8. The *Gramvartá Prakáshiká*, of the 26th February, observes anent the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor to construct some light railways in this province, that though the project, if carried out, is likely to be beneficial, still it will be a really difficult matter to meet the necessary expenses from the Road-Cess funds. The more feasible course would therefore be to excavate a number of canals and to dredge the silted up rivers. By this means irrigation will be promoted, while malarious fevers and other epidemics, generated by the use of stagnant water, will be driven from the country. Facility of communication and increase of internal trade will also thus be secured.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
February 26th, 1876.

9. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 26th February, notices with regret that Government shows a sad partiality towards the journals conducted in English by presenting them with its publications, such as the Administration Reports, while the majority of the native papers are denied this privilege. The editor hopes that Sir Richard Temple will remove this cause of complaint.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

10. The same paper fears that the clause in the Mahomedan Marriage Registration Bill leaving it optional with the registrars to accept *salami* will prove to be a fruitful source of difficulty and oppression from there being no definite provision in the Act fixing the amount of this remuneration. It is extremely probable that the lower class Mahomedans, who are for the most part ignorant men, will be subjected to considerable oppression in this way. The editor asks the legislature to amend the portion of the Act which has reference to the appointment of the registrars and their fees and remuneration.

11. According to the same paper, the local public are greatly dissatisfied with an order of the Principal of the Dacca College, whereby the hours of work in that institution and the schools subordinate to it have been reduced from five to four. This arrangement, it is argued, will materially affect the efficiency of these educational institutions, the results of one of which at the late University examinations have been far from satisfactory. The attention of Government is drawn to the subject.

HINDU HITOSHINI,
February 26 h, 1876.

12. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 27th February, devotes a lengthy editorial to a consideration of the merits and demerits of the Bill to appoint a manager for all undivided joint estates. Among the advantages which would accrue to the parties concerned if the Bill is passed into law are that (1) improvements are likely to be made in the estate from its being placed under one manager, which cannot now be effected for want of unity among the co-sharers; (2) the income will be increased and Government revenue will be paid regularly, thus saving it from being put up to auction; (3) the tenantry will be free from the oppressions and extortions to which they are generally exposed when there are many co-sharers. Of the disadvantages, the chief is that the co-sharers will lose all control over their estates; and (2) the tenantry will be put to some hardship from being required to make regular payments of rent, which many of them are unable to do owing to their poverty, and there will gradually be an extinction of that personal sympathy which now subsists between landlords and tenants.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 27th, 1876.

13. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 28th February, is gratified to find that the Lieutenant-Governor has come to the assistance of Dr. Sarkár's Association by his liberal offer to provide it with a local habitation. It is hoped that there will be no more delay in setting about the matter. It is highly desirable that the scheme should be carried out as a national undertaking, and as one entirely independent of Government.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 28th, 1876.

14. The same paper regards the Calcutta Municipal Bill as a blunder of Sir Richard Temple. In spite of the fact that His Honor is desirous to confer an elective system on the rate-payers of Calcutta, the people are dissatisfied. The reason of this is that Government has reserved all power in its own hands, while promising to give independence to the city; and this is what the people do not like. *Apropos* of this matter, Sir Richard has committed another blunder in enforcing the 55 years' rule in the case of Mr. Roberts, whose ability and fitness for work have not in the least diminished.

SOMA PRAKASH.

15. The *Sahachar*, of the 28th February, observes that the public have now come to perceive the true disposition of Sir Richard Temple. He is playing a false game in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill. The people wanted an elective system, and Sir Richard has proposed to give them one. But it is only nominal, all power being vested in the Government. The offices of Commissioner of Police and Chairman of the Justices have not been separated, though the people have made repeated representations to this effect. Public opinion is not in the least degree attended to. Government should either confer the elective system in its entirety, or leave the present state of things alone; for the latter, in spite of its numerous defects, is better than the self-government proposed to be given by the Bill.

SAHACHAR,
February 28th, 1876.

16. The same paper is glad to notice that the Queen has resolved on assuming a new title having special relation to India. "Empress" would be the proper title. The editor suggests that if the title of "Empress of India"

SAHACHAR.

be fixed upon, the word " Bháratvarsha " should be used instead of India : for the natives do not call their country by the latter name. The opportunity should also be embraced of entering into new treaties with the ill-used Native Princes of India. They should be treated in the same way as the Chiefs of the smaller German Principalities are treated by the Emperor of Germany. Their army should be amalgamated with the British Army, and commands of divisions and regiments should be given to them, while the military service should be opened to the natives.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
February 29th, 1876.

17. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 29th February, asks Government to take pity on poor Nabín Chandra Bandyopádhyáya, of the Mahanta case, and release him from confinement. The occasion of the Prince's visit will thus be made highly auspicious.

URDU GUIDE,
February 20th, 1876.

18. An anonymous correspondent writing to the *Urdu Guide* from Dacca, under date the 20th February, says that the Hindus of the place are highly displeased at the arrangements made at the Government burning-ghât; in the first place, all castes of Hindus, viz. Bráhmíns, Káyasthas, Sudras, and Chandáls, have to use the same place for the disposal of their dead; next, the fees charged are excessively high and tell heavily on the poorer classes, who have to pay Rs. 5 for a dead body carried by boat, and Rs. 3-8 for one borne on the shoulders.

BEHAR BANDHU,
March 1st, 1876.

19. The editor of the *Behár Bandhu* writes as follows on the subject of mortgages. Every Act or law in this country has undergone some kind of amendment in Council, but that on mortgages lies uncared for. *Macpherson on Mortgage* is the only book followed in courts, and it is made the standard for examinations. Since the establishment of the High Court in 1862, 56 judges have presided over 52 benches, yet nothing definite has been followed or adopted on this matter of mortgages, which remains to this day in as confused a state as ever. Every one enjoys his rights under a good administration; but under a bad one pillage, fraud, and dishonesty have full force. Now, our Government has arranged and rectified many things well, but in the case of some laws it has done much injustice and brought the country very low. Amongst these, two may be mentioned, viz. auction sales in execution of decrees and the law relating to mortgage; but particular attention is drawn here to *that* auction sale which takes place by reason of a foreclosure of mortgage. The High Court, on its Original side, holds two such sales, one by the Sheriff for a debt due and the other by the Registrar on account of mortgage. At these auctions people are afraid to come forward and buy lest there may be other liens on the property put up for sale, in which case the auction purchaser would have to meet all existing demands against the encumbered estate: some, however, do not mind the risk, if they can get the property knocked down at a mere nominal price. In this manner the Khurugpur estate, worth crores of rupees, was sold for a lakh. From this and other instances, we are led to believe that Government helps the auction purchasers to become rich under the protection of the law. It would be much better, however, for a law to be passed to the effect that any one desirous of enriching himself may rob and plunder to effect his purpose. In the latter case, there would be this advantage, that people would betake themselves to learning the use of arms, with a view to self-defence and protection from the *badmáshes*. Government ought to direct its serious attention to this matter. A recent decision of the High Court was passed to the effect, that in a mortgage suit, wherein the property is put up to sale for the first mortgage, the auction purchaser becomes liable for payment of the claims of any other mortgagees who did not join in the suit.

Government ought to enact a mortgage law for Bengal, and the Court should direct that if any one else has a claim to the property put up to auction, he ought to prefer it by means of a separate summons, and that the right of the auction purchaser should not be affected by it. If these auctions in execution of decrees on mortgage be conducted in the same manner as those held for arrears of revenue, great justice will be done. Much caution, however, will have to be exercised prior to the auction sale, so that no one may be despoiled of his rights.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th March 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
4th March 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	17th February 1876.
2	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
3	"Suhrid" ...	Muktāgāchā, Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
4	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Bauleah, Rājshāhī ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
5	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
6	"Amrita Bāzār Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
7	"Rājshāhī Samāchār" ...	Karachmāriā, Rājshāhī ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
9	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ...	Kumārkhāli ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishinī" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
12	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Chingripotā, 24-Perghs. ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
15	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	19th to 25th February 1876.
16	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th February to 3rd March 1876.
17	"Bangavidyā Prakāshikā" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th and 26th February 1876.
18	"Jām Jehān-numā" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	25th February 1876.
19	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
20	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipur, Patna ...	Ditto ...	1st March 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

